Cmd B1

ports are sequentially opened so as to spread a sucking area on the suction unit in accordance with transportation of a leading end of the recording medium.

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6. (Amended) A recording apparatus which records data on a recording medium comprising:

(15)

a suction unit for sucking a recording medium which has passed in a recording unit,

(14)

wherein said suction unit is positioned between a platen opposed to a recording head and discharging roller; and

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a changing means for changing a sucking force of the suction means in accordance with a property of the recording medium.

Please add the following new claims:

B3

16. (New) A recording apparatus which records data on a recording medium comprising:

a plate having a plurality of suction ports; and

a vacuum that creates a negative pressure at the suction ports,

wherein the negative pressure at the suction ports is changed by selectively opening and closing the suction ports.

17. (New) A recording apparatus according to Claim 16 further comprising an operation unit operatable for by a user.

18. (New) The recording apparatus according to Claim 17, wherein the operation unit is constituted by a feeding key for the recording medium in an operation panel.

19. (New) The recording apparatus according to Claim 16 further comprising:

a shutter provided under the plate having a plurality of holes corresponding to the plurality of ports; and

a fan that creates a sucking force,

wherein the shutter opens and closes the plurality of ports by relatively moving with respect to the plate.

20. (New) The recording apparatus according to Claim 19, further comprising

at least two rows of the plurality of ports; and

at least two rows of the holes formed on the shutter corresponding to the plurality of ports,

wherein the ports in each row are arranged substantially perpendicular to a transportation direction of the recording medium, and

wherein the holes in a row provided on an upstream side of the transportation of the recording medium are formed longer than the holes in a row provided on a downstream side of the transportation of the recording medium.

21. (New) A recording apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein the sucking area is defined on an area of the suction unit on which the recording medium is actually transported, and all of the suction holes in the sucking area is opened to suck the recording medium.

22. (New) A recording apparatus according to Claim 2, wherein said shutter is formed in a box-like member, on a surface of which a plurality of holes are arranged, and is movably provided to a plate member of the suction unit on which the suction ports are formed.

wherein one of the suction ports is in an opened state when said suction port coincides with a corresponding hole of the shutter, and

wherein the suction port is in a closed state when the suction port is shifted from the corresponding hole of the shutter.

23. (New) A recording apparatus which records data on a recording medium comprising:

a suction unit for sucking a recording medium which has passed in a recording unit, said suction unit having a plurality of suction ports in a transporting direction of the recording medium,

wherein when the recording medium is not transported on the suction unit, the suction ports are closed, and when the recording medium is transported on the suction unit, the suction ports are sequentially opened in accordance with transportation of a leading end of the recording medium, and

wherein the suction ports are opened and closed by a shutter.

24. (New) A recording apparatus which records data on a recording medium comprising:

a suction unit for sucking a recording medium which has passed in a recording unit; and

a changing means for changing a sucking force of the suction means in accordance with a property of the recording medium,

wherein the sucking force of the suction unit is changed so as to become larger as the recording medium becomes thicker.

Cont B3

25. (New) A recording apparatus which records data on a recording medium comprising:

a suction unit for sucking a recording medium which has passed in a recording unit; and

a changing means for changing a sucking force of the suction means in accordance with a property of the recording medium,

wherein the changing means includes an operation unit operatable for a user.

26. (New) A recording apparatus which records data on a recording medium comprising:

a suction unit for sucking a recording medium which has passed in a recording unit; and